

Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Pub. L. 113–291), as modified by section 537 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Pub. L. 114–92), Congress tasked the DAC–IPAD to advise the Secretary of Defense on the investigation, prosecution, and defense of allegations of rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault, and other sexual misconduct involving members of the Armed Forces. This will be the twenty-eighth public meeting held by the DAC–IPAD. At this meeting the Committee will discuss, deliberate, and vote on two recommendations from DAC–IPAD Special Projects Subcommittee.

**Agenda:** 12:30 p.m.–12:35 p.m.—Opening Remarks. 12:35 p.m.–1:30 p.m.—Discussion, Deliberations, and Voting on Special Projects Subcommittee Recommendations. 1:30 p.m.—Public Meeting Adjourns.

**Meeting Accessibility:** Pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.140 and section 1009(a)(1) of title 5 U.S.C., the public or interested organizations may submit written comments to the DAC–IPAD about its mission and topics pertaining to this public meeting. Written comments must be received by the DAC–IPAD at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting date so that they may be made available to the DAC–IPAD members for their consideration prior to the meeting. Written comments should be submitted via email to the DAC–IPAD at [whs.pentagon.em.mbx.dacipad@mail.mil](mailto:whs.pentagon.em.mbx.dacipad@mail.mil) in the following formats: Adobe Acrobat or Microsoft Word. Please note that since the DAC–IPAD operates under the provisions of the FACA, all written comments will be treated as public documents and will be made available for public inspection.

**Written Statements:** Pursuant to 41 CFR 102–3.140 and 5 U.S.C. 1009(a)(3), interested persons may submit a written statement to the DAC–IPAD. Individuals submitting a statement must submit their statement no later than 5:00 p.m. EST, Wednesday, March 29, 2023 to Dwight Sullivan, 703–695–1055 (Voice), 703–693–3903 (Facsimile), [dwight.h.sullivan.civ@mail.mil](mailto:dwight.h.sullivan.civ@mail.mil) (Email). If a statement pertaining to a specific topic being discussed at the planned meeting is not received by Wednesday, March 29, 2023, then it may not be provided to, or considered by, the Committee during the March 30, 2023 meeting. The DFO will review all timely submissions with the DAC–IPAD Chair and ensure such submissions are provided to the members of the DAC–IPAD before the meeting. Any comments received by the DAC–IPAD prior to the stated deadline will be posted on the DAC–IPAD website (<http://dacipad.whs.mil/>).

Dated: March 22, 2023.

**Aaron T. Siegel,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

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**BILLING CODE 5001–06–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Fusion Prototypic Neutron Source (FPNS)

**AGENCY:** Office of Science, Department of Energy.

**ACTION:** Request for information (RFI).

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Science in the Department of Energy (DOE) invites interested parties to provide input on potential technological approaches to meet the needs of the Fusion Energy Sciences (FES) program for a Fusion Prototypic Neutron Source (FPNS) and on potential ways to accelerate the construction and delivery of such a facility, including partnerships with the private sector.

**DATES:** Responses to the RFI must be received by May 11, 2023.

**ADDRESSES:** DOE is using the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) system for the submission and posting of public comments in this proceeding. All comments in response to this RFI are therefore to be submitted electronically through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), via the web form accessed by following the “Submit a Formal Comment” link.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions may be submitted to [fpns@science.doe.gov](mailto:fpns@science.doe.gov) or to Daniel Clark at (240) 780–6529.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The scientific and engineering demonstration of fusion energy will require mastering materials science and performance issues, particularly those associated with materials degradation due to bombardment by the energetic (14.1 MeV) deuterium-tritium (D–T) fusion neutrons. This performance degradation provides the basis for and is one of the single largest inherent limiting factors for the economic, safety, and environmental attractiveness of fusion energy. As such, the FES program places a high priority on gaining an improved understanding of the science of materials degradation due to fusion neutron bombardment, particularly as it pertains to enabling the development of next-generation, high-performance materials for future fusion devices.

Managing this fusion neutron-induced property degradation is one of the most

significant scientific “grand challenges” facing fusion energy development. Although considerable progress has been made exploring the resistance of fusion materials to neutron-based displacement damage with the use of tools available today, such as fission test reactors, ion beams, and computer simulation, the current knowledge base for bulk mechanical and physical property degradation in a realistic fusion environment with simultaneous transmutation effects is limited. The requirement to understand 14.1 MeV neutron-induced material degradation underscores the critical need for a Fusion Prototypic Neutron Source (FPNS), which is aimed at enabling investigation of the effects of fusion-relevant irradiation on both microstructural evolution and bulk material properties degradation.

An FPNS will address the fundamental question of whether materials retain adequate properties for damage levels greater than 20–50 displacements per atom (dpa) in a fusion neutron environment, and lifetime limits from an engineering science perspective at higher levels of irradiation. This will enable the generation of engineering data that is required to design and deploy commercial fusion devices. These roles could be addressed in either the same or complementary irradiation facilities.

The 2020 Long-Range Plan (LRP)<sup>1</sup> “Powering the Future: Fusion & Plasmas” developed by the Fusion Energy Sciences Advisory Committee (FESAC), included strong support for an FPNS, which was viewed as not only filling a key gap in the science mission of FES but as an opportunity to provide world leadership by enabling the fundamental explorations of fusion nuclear material science. Among the key recommendations of the LRP was to “Immediately establish the mission need for an FPNS facility to support development of new materials suitable for use in the fusion nuclear environment and pursue design and construction as soon as possible.”

In addition, the 2021 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report, *Bringing Fusion to the U.S. Grid*,<sup>2</sup> emphasized the need for materials research and a neutron irradiation capability to enable a Fusion Pilot Plant (FPP), including facilities to provide a limited-volume prototypic neutron source for testing of

<sup>1</sup> [https://science.osti.gov/-/media/fes/fesac/pdf/2020/202012/FESAC\\_Report\\_2020\\_Powering\\_the\\_Future.pdf](https://science.osti.gov/-/media/fes/fesac/pdf/2020/202012/FESAC_Report_2020_Powering_the_Future.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/25991/bringing-fusion-to-the-us-grid>.

advanced structural and functional materials and to assess neutron-degradation limits of Reduced Activation Ferritic Martensitic (RAFM) alloys beyond 5 MW-year  $m^{-2}$ .

In 2022, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) sponsored an FPNS workshop<sup>3</sup> at which a strong consensus

was reached in support of an FPNS delivered in 2028 or earlier, that would meet the requirements provided in Table 1, and that FPNS be designed with sufficient capability for future upgrade(s) to deliver increased performance capability by 2032, or

earlier, also as shown in Table 1. There remained a strong consensus that the FPNS neutron spectrum must introduce appropriate levels of gaseous and solid transmutant impurities into the tested materials, consistent with the fusion neutron environment.

TABLE 1—FPNS PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS DESIRED BY 2028 OR EARLIER, AND 2032 OR EARLIER  
[As indicated in columns 2 and 3, respectively]

| Parameter                        | Capability requirement by 2028 or earlier   | Capability requirement by 2032 or earlier   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Damage rate .....                | 5 to 11 dpa/calendar year (Fe equivalent) .....                                       | 15 dpa/calendar year (Fe equivalent).   |
| Spectrum .....                   | Gaseous and solid transmutant generation rates consistent with 14 MeV fusion neutron. | Gaseous and solid transmutant generation rates consistent with 14 MeV fusion neutron. |
| Sample volume in high flux zone. | ≥50 cm <sup>3</sup> .....   | ≥300 cm <sup>3</sup> .  |
| Temperature range .....          | ~300 to 1200 °C .....   | ~300 to 1200 °C.  |
| Temperature control .....        | 3 independently monitored and controlled regions .....                                | 4 independently monitored and controlled regions.                                     |
| Flux gradient .....              | ≤20%/cm in the plane of the sample .....  | ≤20%/cm in the plane of the sample.   |

To meet the mission of the Bold Decadal Vision for Commercial Fusion Energy,<sup>4</sup> the design and demonstration of an FPP must occur simultaneously with the design and construction of the FPNS. Thus, the results from an FPNS may not directly impact the design and construction of the first FPP but will be critical to later iterations of FPP and eventual licensing of commercial fusion power plants.

#### Questions for Input

SC is issuing this Request for Information on potential technological approaches to meet the needs listed in Table 1, and on potential ways to accelerate the construction and delivery of an FPNS including public-private partnerships. Of special interest are approaches leading to a facility under a total capital cost of \$500M, even if meeting this objective would require upfront R&D. Responses should include discussions of the following topics (limit all responses to five pages):

- Technological approach to meeting the performance requirements in Table 1 (provide the parameters listed in Table 1 that would be achieved based on projections of your proposed approach);
- Technical maturity and risks of the concept;
- Research and development required (with rough cost/schedule and go/no-go milestones) to increase the technical readiness level and retire risks such that a final design can be completed;
- Estimated capital and operating costs;
- Potential for performing accelerated irradiation studies;

- Similarity or deviation of neutron irradiation spectrum relative to prototypic fusion device conditions (be quantitative);

- Temperature and irradiation flux stability/control;

- Ability to perform multiple-effect tests (e.g., irradiation in the presence of a flowing coolant or in the presence of complex applied stress fields); and

- Potential commercial partners, markets, and opportunities for public-private partnerships in funding and constructing FPNS.

#### Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on March 20, 2023, by Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, Director, Office of Science, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. The document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE **Federal Register** Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on March 21, 2023.

**Treena V. Garrett,**

*Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.*

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#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

#### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Project No. 4108-019]

#### City of St. Cloud; Notice of Application Tendered for Filing With the Commission and Establishing Procedural Schedule for Licensing and Deadline for Submission of Final Amendments

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection.

a. *Type of Application:* New Major License.

b. *Project No.:* 4108-019.

c. *Date Filed:* December 15, 2022.

d. *Applicant:* City of St. Cloud.

e. *Name of Project:* St. Cloud Hydroelectric Project (St. Cloud Project or project).

f. *Location:* The project is located on the Mississippi River approximately 75 miles northwest of St. Paul, Minnesota in the City of St. Cloud, Stearns and Sherburne Counties, Minnesota. The project does not occupy any federal or Tribal lands.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.epri.com/research/products/000000003002023917>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/03/15/fact-sheet-developing-a-bold-vision-for-commercial-fusion-energy/>.